

House Resolution 161

By: Representatives Morgan of the 39th, Brooks of the 63rd, Talton of the 145th, Teilhet of the 40th, Barnard of the 166th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging independent investigations for deaths of persons confined in jails or correctional
2 institutions; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, some persons who are confined in jails have not been convicted of any crime;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, persons confined in jails or correctional institutions after conviction and
6 sentencing retain certain legal rights; and

7 WHEREAS, the death of a person confined in a jail or correctional institution causes grief
8 for family members and friends; and

9 WHEREAS, family members and friends of a person who has died while confined to a jail
10 or correctional institution are often frustrated in their attempts to find out what happened to
11 cause the death; and

12 WHEREAS, in some cases, family members and friends of persons who have died while
13 confined to a jail or correctional institution have suspected that misconduct has been
14 concealed by investigators who are employed by the jail, by the correctional institution, or
15 by the same political subdivision responsible for the jail or correctional institution; and

16 WHEREAS, the best practice in cases of alleged conflict of interest is to avoid all appearance
17 of impropriety.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
19 the members of this body urge the elected officials, appointed officials, wardens, and other
20 individuals in charge of jails and state and county correctional institutions to seek
21 independent investigation routinely for the death of any person confined to jail or a
22 correctional institution.

- 1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
- 2 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Board of Corrections, the
- 3 Georgia Sheriffs Association and the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police.